

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
SAJ-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /122 W
-----260147Z 044453 /73

R 260104Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9142
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
ALL EC CAPITALS 0312

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR FR SA XF
SUBJ: FRANCO-SAUDI COMMUNIQUE

REF: PARIS 2280

1. PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN ON GISCARD'S JAN 22-25
VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. NOR DOES
THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WE ASSUME ADDRESSEES WILL
HAVE RECEIVED, INDICATE A VERY PRODUCTIVE VISIT.

2. SOME PRELIMINARY COMMENT ON THE COMMUNIQUE SEEMS IN
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ORDER, HOWEVER. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE FORMAL FRENCH
POSITION ON A SETTLEMENT. BUT BOTH SIDES CONSIDER THAT
"WHILE TODAY'S CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MORE FAVORABLE FOR
SEEKING A JUST AND LASTING GLOBAL SETTLEMENT, IT IS
NECESSARY AND URGENT TO UNDERTAKE THAT QUEST WITHOUT
DELAY, FAILING WHICH THE SITUATION CAN ONLY DETERIORATE
DANGEROUSLY." FRANCE DID NOT ENDORSE THE SAUDI

POSITION ON JERUSALEM OR ON THE PLO.

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IN THE SECTION ON THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THE TWO SIDES "NOTE THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS" OF THE DIALOGUE, AND "STATED THEIR FIRM RESOLVE TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO GIVE THE DIALOGUE ITS FULL MEANING." WHILE THE FRENCH HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT ITS VERY EXISTENCE GAVE THE DIALOGUE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE RECALL THAT THEY PUBLICLY HAVE MADE SUCH A CALL FOR GREATER POLITICAL CONTENT.

4. ON LEBANON, THE TWO PARTIES, NOT SURPRISINGLY, NOTE THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND PRAISE SARKIS FOR HIS EFFORTS TOWARDS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, RESTORATION OF THE STATE, AND RECONSTRUCTION.

5. CONCERNING DJIBOUTI, KHALED WELCOMED ITS COMING INDEPENDENCE AND THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT "RESPECT, IN THE FUTURE, FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THIS TERRITORY WAS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT REGION OF THE WORLD." WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER WHETHER THE SAUDIS ALSO AGREED TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BOLSTER DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENT STATUS.

6. THE TWO PARTIES ALSO CONSIDER THAT A NEW

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER IS ESSENTIAL FOR WORLD
PEACE AND STABILITY. CITING THEIR ROLE IN ITS
CREATION, THEY WISH SUCCESS TO THE CIEC AND INDICATE
THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS
CONCLUDING THE CONFERENCE RAPIDLY WITH CONCRETE RESULTS
SATISFACTORY TO DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES.

7. THE FRENCH SIDE EXPRESSED "APPRECIATION FOR THE
MODERATE SAUDI POSITION ON PETROLEUM PRICES, A
POSITION WHICH REFLECTS THE LATTER'S BALANCED
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JUDGMENT ON THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION."

8. BILATERAL RELATIONS RECEIVED SUBDUED TREATMENT.
"THE HAPPY DEVELOPMENT" OF FRANCO-SAUDI RELATIONS
REFLECTING THE "CLOSE AND CONFIDENT COOPERATION"
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES "EXPRESSED ITSELF" IN THE
REALMS OF ENGINEERING, PLANNING AND URBAN STUDIES,
GEOPHYSICAL AND MINING RESEARCH, PUBLIC WORKS, PORT
INSTALLATIONS, WATER TREATMENT, ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL
SERVICES, RADIO, AND COLOR TELEVISION. TO THIS LIST OF
PAST "COOPERATION," THE COMMUNIQUE NOTED "NEW
PERSPECTIVES" IN THE FIELDS OF DESALINISATION AND USE
OF WATER RESOURCES, ELECTRICITY, TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING, SOCIAL EQUIPMENT, EXPLOITATION
OF NATURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES, AND MIXED INDUSTRIAL
PROJECTS. MENTION OF NO PROJECT SIGNATURE WAS
INCLUDED, HOWEVER, SO WE ASSUME THE FRENCH WILL HAVE TO

COMPETE FOR THE BUSINESS.

9. THE FRENCH DECLARED THEIR READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR RESEARCH. THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO STUDY EXISTING POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY.

10. FINALLY, KHALED ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT FRANCE, AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED LATER.
RUSH

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